

S3280Q Seminar in Infant Development

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Required text:

Infancy: Development from Birth to Age 3, 3E (2018) by Dana Gross.
ISBN: 978-15381-0673-0. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Suggested resources:

Development in Infancy: A Contemporary Introduction 5/E (2014), by M. H. Bornstein, M. E. Arterberry, and M.E. Lamb. Psychology Press.

Infant Development A Topical Approach 2/E (2015) by Alan Fogel. Sloan Educational Publishing.

Course description:

William James (1890) described the experience of the young infant as a blooming, buzzing confusion. Because of advances in the study of infant perception and cognition, we now recognize that this is not true. Newborn infants are equipped with basic sensory systems that rapidly develop. This seminar will provide an overview of infant development based on current research, with the primary focus on perception and cognition. Theoretical issues, such as assessment of competence, continuity in development, and the relative contributions of genetics and experience, will be discussed.

Course requirements and grading:

- Paper and presentation based on one of the topics in the course outline (40% of grade),
- Weekly short answer take home assignments based on information presented in class and in the reading (40% of grade) due the following week, and
- Class attendance and participation (20% of grade).

Paper: Paper topics will be discussed in the first class meeting. Students will briefly review what is in the reading and then supplement this by including material from other sources as the basis of their paper. Papers should be based on research articles from journals, such as *Infant Behavior and Development*, *Developmental Psychology*, and *Child Development*, and contributions from advanced texts. Papers should not exceed 10 pages and include at least 5 journal articles as references. Students will present their topic and lead a discussion on the last day of class.

- **Deadline: The deadline is August 13** for all papers.

Course Outline of Topics and Chapters in the Text:

Date	Topic	<i>Infancy: Development From Birth to Age 3</i>
July 9	Why study infants? History and theoretical background Methods and Social Policy	1 2
July 11	Prenatal development • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #1 due</i>	3
July 16	Birth Reflexes Motor development	4 & 5
July 18	Newborn states of arousal Perceptual development • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #2 due</i>	4 & 6
July 23	Cognitive development: Learning and Information processing	7
July 25	Cognitive development: Piaget Tests of infant intelligence • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #3 due</i>	7
July 30	Memory Categorization Symbolic play	7 & 8
Aug. 1	Language development • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #4 due</i>	9
Aug. 6	Emotional development Temperament	11
Aug. 8	Social development Attachment; child care • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #5 due</i>	10 & 12
Aug. 13	Effects of Socioeconomic class and culture • <i>Weekly short answer take home assignment #6 due</i>	Additional reading
Aug. 15	Presentation and discussion of students' paper topics <i>Papers due</i>	